



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



*For Immediate Release*

Judy Pedersen, PIO  
E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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# Park Authority's PACT 2007 Program Helped More Children Enjoy Summer Camp

The Fairfax County Park Authority gives homeless children free summer camp opportunities. Since 1997, the Park Authority, in partnership with the county's homeless shelters and with contributions from local organizations, businesses and individuals, has provided summer camp experiences for children ages 6 to 17 living in homeless shelters and transitional housing.

In 2007, the "Park and Community Together" (PACT) project successfully placed 57 children into Park Authority day camp programs. The children came from Alexandria's New Hope Housing, Falls Church's Shelter House, Reston's Embury Rucker Shelter, Fairfax's Bethany House, NOVA Family Services, Good Shepherd Housing in Alexandria, NOVACO (Northern Virginia Coalition), and UCM (United Community Ministries).

These organizations have come to depend on PACT during the summer months. The benefits go beyond the wonderful experiences the children receive. This camp also provides an opportunity for parents to seek employment or learn valuable skills without having to worry about childcare.

PACT is fully supported by contributions and in 2007, over \$54,000 was raised. The Park Authority plans to increase program participation in 2008.

PACT 2007 was made possible through generous contributions from: The Freddie Mac Foundation, The George Preston Marshall Foundation, The Mark & Catherine Winkler Foundation, BB&T Branch Banking & Trust Co. of Virginia, Bethany Lutheran Church, Fried Companies, Inc., Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services, Kiwanis Club of Mt. Vernon, Mars Inc., Metrocall, Inc., Noblis, Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, Inc., Northern Virginia Ethical Society, Omega World Travel Agency, Reed Smith LLP, VSE Corporation, VOVACO, Wegmans Food Markets, and West\*Group.

Companies or individuals wishing to contribute toward next year's summer camp programs can contact Sousan Frankeberger at 703-324-8566 or [sfrank@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sfrank@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) • E-MAIL: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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